Component of Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002-X
Juristat

Juristat Article

Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009

by Samuel Perreault and Shannon Brennan

Summer 2010
Vol. 30, no. 2

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September 2010

Catalogue no. 85-002-X, Vol. 30, no. 2

ISSN 1209-6393

Frequency: Irregular

Ottawa

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

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Symbols

. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009: Highlights

- The 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) found that just over one-quarter of Canadians, aged 15 years and older, reported being the victim of a crime in the preceding 12 months. This proportion was similar to that in 2004, when the last victimization survey was conducted.
- Seven in ten self-reported victimizations were non-violent in nature. Of the eight offences measured by the GSS, theft of personal property was the most common.
- Overall rates of self-reported violent victimization remained stable between 2004 and 2009, as did the rates of sexual assault, physical assault and robbery.
- Overall rates of self-reported household victimization also remained stable between 2004 and 2009. However, motor vehicle thefts declined 23% while break-ins increased, up 21%.
- Self-reported rates of violent and household victimization in 2009 were higher in western Canada, particularly Manitoba and Saskatchewan, than in the eastern part of the country.
- Younger Canadians reported higher rates of violent victimization than older Canadians. The rate of violence reported by 15-to-24 year olds was almost 15 times higher than the rate for individuals 65 years or older
- Just under one-third of Canadians (31%) who had been victimized reported their victimization to police, down slightly from 2004 (34%). Break-ins and motor vehicle thefts were more likely than other types of victimizations to be brought to the attention of authorities.
- In 2009, the vast majority (93%) of Canadians felt somewhat or very satisfied with their personal safety from crime, similar to the GSS findings from 2004.

Criminal victimization in Canada, 2009

by Samuel Perreault and Shannon Brennan

Information on crime in Canada is collected by Statistics Canada via two different though complementary surveys: the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization and the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. The GSS is conducted every five years on a sample of Canadians and collects information on their personal accounts of criminal victimization for eight crime types: sexual assault, robbery, physical assault, break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property, vandalism and theft of personal property (see Textbox 1 for complete definitions). The UCR survey is carried out annually and collects data on all criminal incidents known to, and substantiated by, Canadian police services.

This article reports the first results from the 2009 victimization cycle of the General Social Survey (GSS). Information is presented on the nature and extent of criminal victimization in the ten provinces. Data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut was collected as part of a separate survey and will be published at a later date. In this report, the characteristics associated with criminal victimizations are examined, including socio-demographic risk factors, consequences of victimization and victims' decisions on whether to report incidents to police. Where applicable, data from previous GSS cycles on victimization (1999 and 2004) are included to provide comparisons and identify trends in self-reported victimization.

Victimization rates remain stable from 2004[1]

According to the 2009 GSS, about 7.4 million Canadians, or just over one-quarter of the population aged 15 years and older, reported being a victim of a criminal incident in the preceding 12 months. This proportion was essentially unchanged from that reported in 2004.[2]

The majority of criminal incidents reported to the GSS in 2009 were non-violent. More specifically, theft of personal property (34%), theft of household property (13%), vandalism (11%), break-ins (7%), and theft of motor vehicles/parts (5%), accounted for 70% of incidents recorded by the GSS. Violent incidents, namely physical assault (19%), sexual assault (8%), and robbery (4%), accounted for the remaining self-reported incidents.

The GSS data can be used to calculate rates of self-reported violent victimization (including sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault), household victimization (including break and enter, theft of motor vehicle/parts, theft of household property and vandalism) and theft of personal property.

According to the 2009 GSS, the rates of violent and household victimization were similar to those reported in 2004.[3] However, the rate of theft of personal property increased 16%, up from 93 incidents per 1,000 people in 2004 to 108 incidents in 2009 (Table 1).

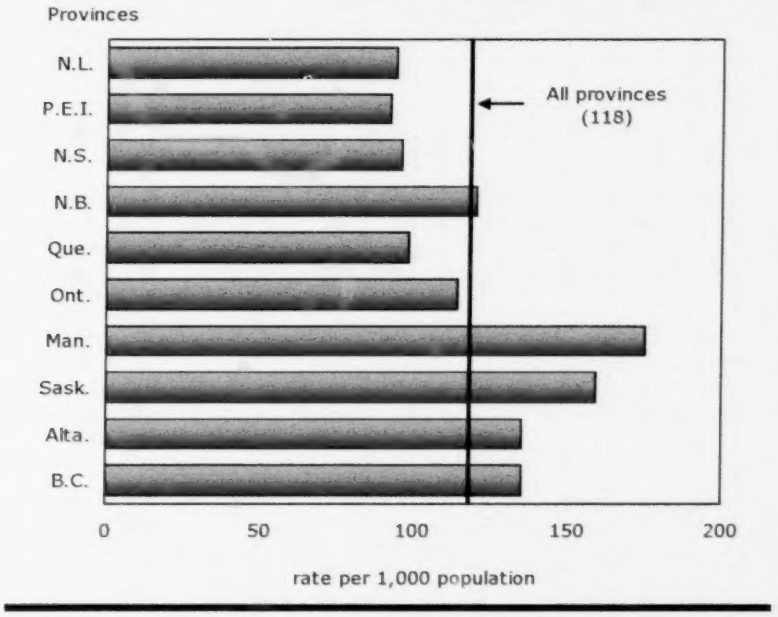
Text box 1
Defining criminal victimization in Canada

Type of victimization	Description
Violent victimization	
Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
Physical assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
Non-violent victimization	
Household victimization	
Break and enter	Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
Motor vehicle/parts theft	Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.
Theft of household property	Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances.
Vandalism	Wilful damage of personal or household property.
Theft of personal property	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet (unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim).

Victimization rates higher in western Canada

For both violent and household crime, the highest rates of victimization in 2009 were in western Canada, led by Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Table 2, Chart 1, Chart 2). The only exception to this trend was in New Brunswick where the rate of violent victimization more closely resembled those in the west. Police-reported crime data for 2009 indicate a similar east-to-west pattern (Dauvergne and Turner 2010).

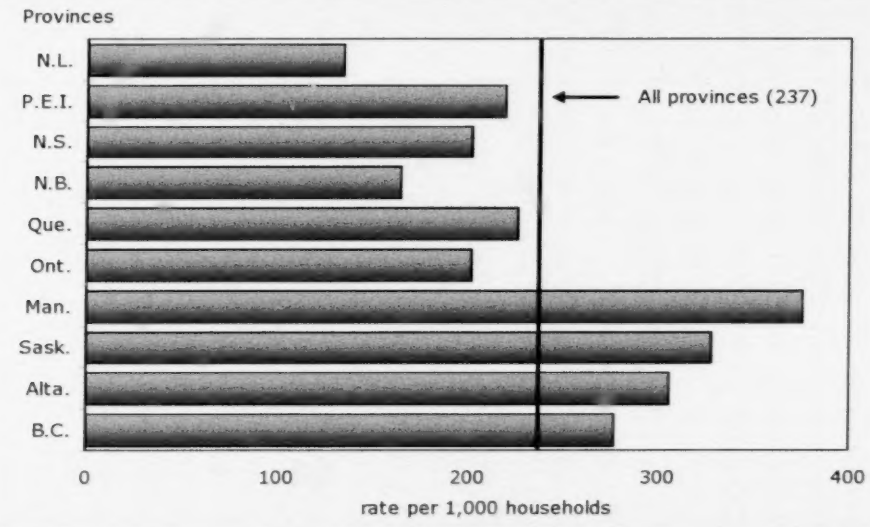
Chart 1
Self-reported violent victimization incidents, by province, 2009



Note: Violent victimization includes sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault. Caution should be used in making comparisons between provinces as not all differences between provincial estimates are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Due to small numbers, GSS data for 2009 was only publishable for a sub-set of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMA's).[4] Among these, respondents in Regina reported the highest rates of violent victimization, at close to double the rates in other CMAs. Regina also reported one of the highest rates of household victimization. In contrast, Toronto, Canada's largest census metropolitan area, recorded the lowest rate of violent victimization and was among the lowest for household victimization. Rates of victimization were similar among all other available CMAs (Table 3).

Chart 2
Self-reported household victimization incidents, by province, 2009



Note: Household victimization includes break and enter, motor vehicle theft/parts, theft of household property and vandalism. Caution should be used in making comparisons between provinces as not all differences between provincial estimates are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Text box 2
Comparing self-reported victimization data with police-reported crime data

While both the GSS and the UCR survey collect information on crime in Canada, there are several differences between these surveys including survey type, scope, coverage, and source of information.

The GSS is a sample survey, which in 2009, collected information from approximately 19,500 respondents, aged 15 years and older, living in the ten provinces. The survey is designed to ensure that these data represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over.

One of the major benefits of the GSS is that it captures information on criminal incidents that do not come to the attention of police. Research has shown that for various reasons victims may choose not to report their victimizations to the police. For example, according to the 2009 GSS 69% of violent victimizations, 62% of household victimizations and 71% of personal property thefts were not reported to police. Despite the benefits of self-reported victimization surveys they do have limitations. Of note is that the GSS relies upon respondents to recall and report events accurately (see Methodology for further information on the GSS).

In comparison, the UCR is an annual census of all *Criminal Code* incidents that come to the attention of the police. One of the main advantages of the UCR survey is that it allows changes in police-reported crime to be tracked over time. There are many factors that can influence police-reported crime statistics, including the willingness of the public to report crimes to the police as well as changes in legislation, policies and enforcement practices.

Violent victimization

The GSS measures violent victimization by gathering information on three violent crimes – sexual assault, robbery, and physical assault. In addition to measuring the prevalence of violent victimization in Canada, the 2009 GSS provides information on the socio-demographic characteristics of victims of violence, as well as information about offenders.

Violent victimization remains stable

In 2009, close to 1.6 million Canadians, or 6% of the population aged 15 years and over in the ten provinces reported having been the victim of a sexual assault, a robbery or a physical assault in the preceding 12 months, a proportion similar to that in 2004. Physical assault was the most common form of violence, followed by sexual assault and robbery.

It was not uncommon for victims of violence to report having experienced multiple violent incidents. Of those who were victimized, most reported being victimized once (74%), 16% reported that they had been violently victimized twice within the previous 12 months, and 10% said that they had been victimized 3 or more times.

Violent victimization highest among youth and young adults

Many of the socio-demographic factors collected by the GSS were found to be associated with violent victimization.[5] Some of these factors relate to specific victim demographics such as sex and age, while others relate to the victim's social characteristics such as main activity, and participation in evening activities (Table 4, Table 5).

Overall, younger Canadians were more likely than older Canadians to indicate that they had been violently victimized within the previous 12 month period. More specifically, people between the ages of 15 and 24 years were almost 15 times more likely than those aged 65 and older to report being a victim of a violent victimization (Table 4).

Violent victimization related to marital status and sexual orientation

Rates of self-reported violent victimization were found to be highest among single people and lowest among people who were married. People in common-law relationships also had higher rates of violent victimization relative to people in marriages. These differences may be partly attributed to age, as common-law unions are more prevalent among younger people, as is being single (Statistics Canada 2006).

Other victim characteristics that were associated with increased rates of violent victimization in 2009 included: self-identifying as homosexual, having some form of activity limitation and participating in evening activities outside the home. Additionally, rates of self-reported violent victimization among people who identified as an Aboriginal person were double those of non-Aboriginal people.[6]

Rates of violent victimization were lower for people who identified as a visible minority than for non-visible minorities. Rates of victimization were lower for immigrants than for non-immigrants.

Violent victimization most often committed by males and young adults

The GSS asks respondents who report having been victimized to specify information about the offender.[7] These results indicate that males accounted for close to 9 in 10 offenders of all violent incidents.

In addition, the data show that a disproportionate number of violent crimes were committed by young adults. While 26% of violent crimes were committed by those aged 18 to 24, this age group comprised 10% of the Canadian population. This is consistent with police-reported data, which also show males and young adults to be over-represented as accused persons (Dauvergne and Turner 2010).

Sexual assault rates higher among females

Overall, Canadians reported similar rates of sexual victimization in 2009, 2004 and 1999 (Table 6).[8] As was previously the case, the majority of sexual assaults reported to the 2009 GSS were the least serious form of sexual assault. For example, incidents of sexual touching, unwanted grabbing, kissing, or fondling accounted for 81% of sexual assaults reported to the GSS. In contrast, sexual attacks, which involve the use of threats or physical violence, accounted for about one in five sexual assault incidents. These findings reflect those shown in police-reported data where, in 2009, the least serious types of sexual assault (level 1) comprised the majority of sexual offences (Dauvergne and Turner 2010).

Rates of sexual assault are higher among females than among males. In 2009, the self-reported sexual assault victimization rate for females was twice the rate for males (Table 4). Of the sexual assaults reported by respondents to the GSS, 70% involved a female victim. In comparison, females were victims in 38% of physical assaults.

Three-quarters of all violent incidents reported in 2009 involved only one perpetrator. This was particularly true for self-reported sexual assaults, as 92% of these incidents involved someone acting alone (Table 7). This remained unchanged from the previous cycle of the GSS.

Self-reported incidents of sexual assault were more likely than robberies and physical assaults to involve an offender who was known to the victim. In over half (51%) of sexual assault incidents, the perpetrator was a friend, acquaintance, or neighbour of the victim, compared to 29[E]% of robberies and 31% of physical assaults. Robberies and physical assaults, on the other hand, were most often committed by a stranger.

More than half (54%) of sexual assaults reported by Canadians through the GSS took place in a commercial or institutional establishment, such as a restaurant or a bar, compared to 39% of physical assaults.

Robbery rates increase over the past decade

Self-reported victimization data indicate that rates of robbery (including attempted robbery) have remained fairly stable between 2004 and 2009[9], though they have increased by 44% since 1999 (Table 6). This change is primarily due to an increase in the overall number of females reporting robbery. Females were more likely to report being the victim of a robbery in 2009 than they were ten years earlier, resulting in a rate similar to that for males.

Though the GSS data indicate a rise in the rate of robbery over the 10-year period, police-reported data indicate a downward trend. Some of this discrepancy may be explained by differences in how each survey measures this offence. For example, the GSS only captures information on robberies committed against an individual, whereas police-reported data counts all robberies reported to police, including those that target businesses. According to police-reported data, more than 30% of all robberies in 2009 were committed against businesses (Dauvergne 2010).

While self-reported rates of robbery have increased since 1999, the 2009 GSS indicates that the seriousness of robbery incidents has not. One measure that can be used to assess the seriousness of a robbery incident is the presence of a weapon. In 2009, as in 2004 and 1999, just under half of robbery victims reported that a weapon was present or used during the incident (Table 7). Police-reported data show that the number of robberies with weapons, including firearm-related robberies has declined (Dauvergne and Turner 2010).

Physical assault often associated with drug and alcohol consumption

Data from the 2009 GSS indicate that rates of self-reported physical assault have remained stable over the past decade (Table 6).[10] In 2009, close to two-thirds of all violent incidents involved a victim who had been physically assaulted in some manner (i.e. reported being hit, slapped, grabbed, beaten, or threatened face-to-face with physical harm). The majority of assaults (78%) resulted in no injury to the victim.

Similar to previous GSS victimization cycles, results from the 2009 GSS show that alcohol consumption by victims was associated with elevated rates of overall violent victimization. In particular, self-reported rates of physical assault were almost three times higher for people who had consumed 5 or more alcoholic beverages in one sitting in the past month than they were for those who drank less or not at all. Moreover, people who used drugs[11] everyday were almost 8 times more likely to report being physically assaulted than those who had never used drugs (Table 5).

In addition, many victims reported that the offender's use of drugs and alcohol also played a role in their victimization. In over half (54%) of self-reported physical assaults, the victim thought that the incident was related to the offender's use of alcohol or drugs.

Non-violent victimization

In addition to gathering information on people's experiences with violent crime, the GSS also measures non-violent victimization, including household victimization and theft of personal property. The distinction between these types of offences is based on the target of the criminal event. For household victimization (including break and enter, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism) the target of victimization is a household, while for theft of personal property, it is an individual who is victimized.

Rates of household victimization remain stable

The overall rate of self-reported household victimization has remained stable since 2004 (Table 1).[12] Of the household crimes reported by victims, theft of household property (35%) and vandalism (31%) were the most common. Break and enters (20%) and theft of motor vehicles (14%) comprised the remaining incidents.

Break-ins highest for renters

The 2009 GSS indicates that break-ins increased by 21% from 2004, although the rate was similar to that reported in 1999 (Table 9). This finding differs from police-reported data that show break-ins to be steadily declining since peaking in the early 1990's (Dauvergne and Turner 2010).

In 2009, Canadian households that rented their home (for example, single-detached house, apartment, or garden home) were more likely to self-report a break-in than Canadian households who owned their home (60 versus 42 incidents per 1,000 households). For all other household crimes, namely motor vehicle theft, theft of household property and vandalism, owners and renters experienced comparable rates of victimization (Table 8).

Overall, Canadians who had resided in their homes for a shorter period of time were more likely to report being a victim of a household crime than those who had lived in their homes for longer periods. For example, households whose residents had lived in their home for less than six months were more than twice as likely as those who had been living in their home for at least ten years to report a break-in. The same trend was found for theft of household property; however the difference between the household groups was less.

Motor vehicle thefts more common in larger households

Self-reported motor vehicle theft was the only type of household crime to decrease in 2009. Theft or attempted theft of cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, mopeds or other vehicles or their parts, declined by 23% between 2004 and 2009, after rising between 1999 and 2004 (Table 9).

Consistent with findings from previous cycles, larger households were more likely than smaller households to experience a motor vehicle theft in 2009. For example, households of three or more people were more than twice as likely as a household of one to report being the victim of a motor vehicle theft (Table 8). This trend was also evident for thefts of household property and vandalism. The increased risk of victimization among larger households may be partly due to the fact that larger households may own multiple vehicles and, as such, have more opportunity to be victimized.

Household theft lowest among those living in apartments

In 2009, Canadian households self-reported close to 1.1 million incidents of theft of household property. These incidents include the theft, or attempted theft, of items such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances. Overall, the rate of household property theft remained stable between 2004 and 2009,[13] after rising between 1999 and 2004 (Table 9).

Living in a high-rise apartment building (five or more storeys) appears to have a protective effect against household crimes. Households in high-rise apartment buildings had a lower rate of victimization compared to those in houses. This pattern was particularly evident for household property theft. Regardless of their size, households in apartment buildings were significantly less likely than those in single-detached houses to report an incident of household theft. More specifically, the rate of household theft among Canadians living in single-detached homes was more than double the rate reported by Canadian households living in apartments of 5 storeys or more (86 versus 36[E] incidents per 1,000 household) (Table 8).

Lower rates of victimization in apartment buildings may be partly explained by fewer opportunities. For example, there are likely to be fewer household belongings left outside that can be stolen or vandalized. It may also be possible that households in apartments may not consider the building's common areas as belonging to their household and thus may not report incidents that take place there.

Vandalism highest for households with largest annual income

In 2009, vandalism accounted for close to one-third of all household victimizations reported to the GSS. Overall, the rate of vandalism for Canadian households remained stable between 2004 and 2009,[14] after increasing between 1999 and 2004 (Table 9).

Similar to previous GSS cycles, results from 2009 suggest that rates of vandalism increase with household income. More specifically, the rate of self-reported vandalism for households with an annual income of $100,000 or more was about one and a half times higher than households whose annual income was under $20,000. This trend was true for for all four household offences (Table 8). The higher a household's income, the more attractive its property and belongings may be to potential perpetrators.

Theft of personal property accounts for one-third of victimizations

Theft of personal property, such as money, clothing, or jewellery, is considered to be a non-violent crime, because unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim. Overall, theft of personal property represented over one-third of criminal incidents reported to the survey.

In general, the factors found to be associated with a greater risk of violent victimization (e.g. being young, being single, and participating in many evening activities), were also found to be associated with an increased risk of theft of personal property (Table 4, Table 5). Similar to other forms of non-violent victimization, Canadians with the highest household incomes ($100,000 or more) were more at risk of personal property theft than were Canadians with lower annual household incomes (Table 4).

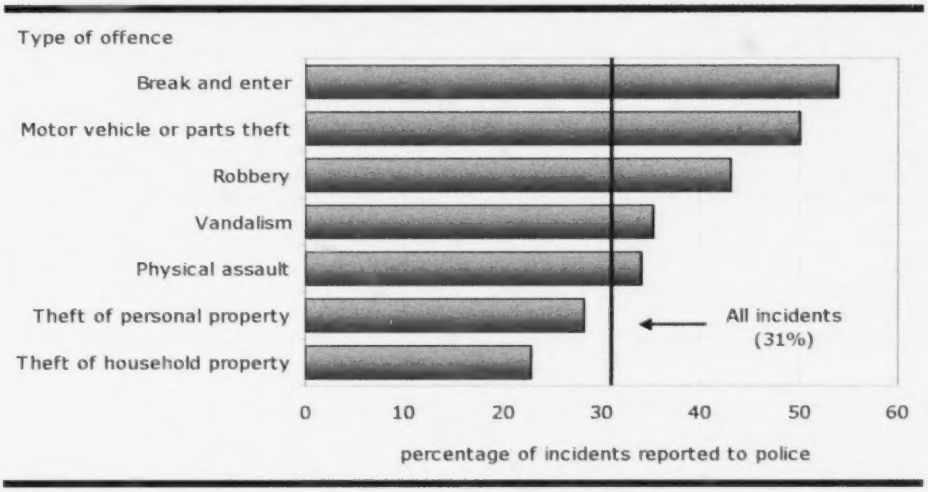
Reporting victimizations to police

Break-ins and motor vehicle theft most often reported to police

In each cycle of the GSS, victims are asked whether or not the incident came to the attention of the police. Overall, nearly one-third (31%) of incidents were reported to the police in 2009, down slightly from 2004 (34%) (Table 10). Rates of reporting to the police were highest for incidents of household victimization (36%), followed by incidents of violent victimization (29%) and thefts of personal property (28%).

For both violent and non-violent incidents, rates of reporting to police tend to differ depending on the type of crime (Table 10, Chart 3). Among violent crimes, robberies (including attempted robberies) were most likely to be reported to police (43%), followed by physical assaults (34%). The majority of sexual assaults were not reported to the police (88%) (Table 10). Among household crimes, break-ins (54%) were most often reported followed by motor vehicle/parts theft (50%). Less than one quarter (23%) of household property thefts were reported to the police (Table 10).

Chart 3
Self-reported victimization incidents reported to the police, 2009



Note: Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date. Data for sexual assault not shown as too small to produce reliable estimates.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

There are many other factors that also influence whether criminal incidents are reported to police. Among violent crimes, older victims were more likely than younger victims to report the incident. Close to half (46%) of violent incidents involving victims 55 years or older were brought to the attention of the police, compared to 20% of violent incidents involving victims aged 15 to 24 years.

Violent incidents committed by multiple offenders were also more likely to come to the attention of the police than incidents committed by just one offender. In 2009, half (49%) of all violent incidents were reported to police compared to 20% of those committed by one offender.

Finally, rates of reporting to police varied according to the location of the incident. Half (51%) of violent crimes that occurred in the victim's home or the surrounding area were reported to police, while the remaining half were not. In contrast just 20% of incidents that took place in a business or public institution were reported to police, with the remaining 8 in 10 going unreported.

For household crimes, the greater the value of the stolen or damaged property, the more likely the crime was reported to the police. For close to 7 in 10 household incidents where the value of the stolen or damaged property exceeded $1,000 the incident was reported to the police. In comparison, a much smaller proportion (15%) of incidents was reported to police when the stolen or damaged property was valued at less than $100.

"Sense of duty" most often cited reason for reporting to the police

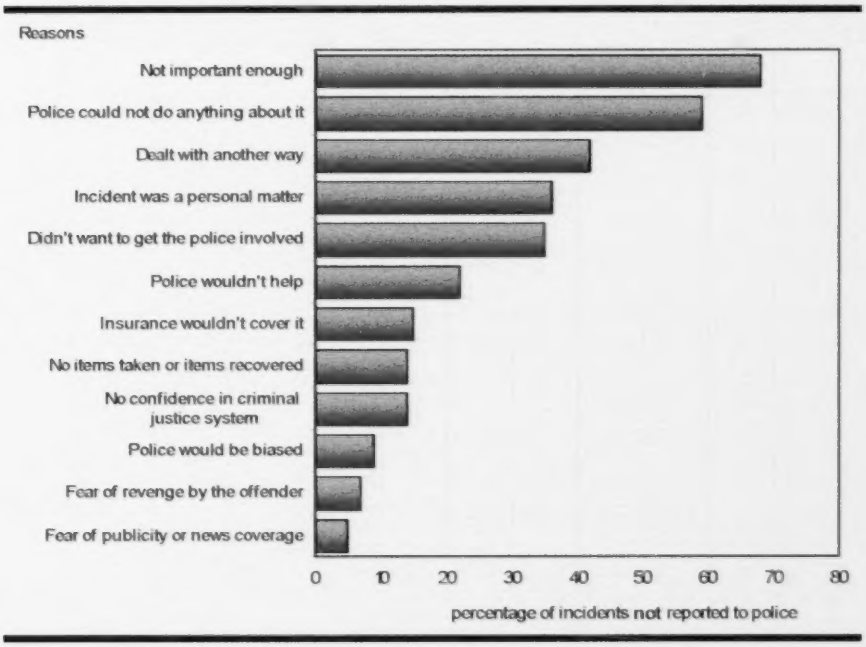
There are many reasons why a victim of crime may or may not choose to report an incident to the police. A sense of duty was the most common reason cited by victims who did report (86%). Many victims also reported the incident to the police because they wanted to arrest and punish the offender (69%).

Though victims of violent crime and victims of household crime often stated the same reasons for reporting to the police, some reasons were more specific to the type of crime. For example, victims of violent crime were more likely than victims of household crime to report due to a desire to receive protection, while victims of household crime were more likely to report in order to obtain compensation or to claim insurance.

Of those Canadians who had reported the incident, most (63%) were satisfied with the action taken by police. This held true regardless of whether the incident was a violent or household crime.

Victims of violent and household crime also had similar reasons for not reporting the incident to the police. The most common reasons were believing that the incident was not important enough (68%), followed by thinking there was nothing the police could do to help (59%). Other reasons included having dealt with the situation in another way (42%) and feeling that the incident was a personal matter (36%) (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Reasons for not reporting victimization incidents to police, 2009



Note: Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

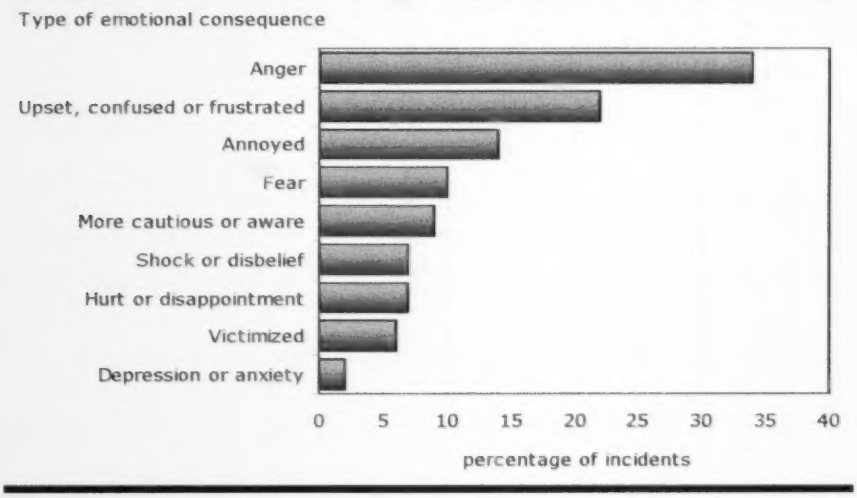
Impacts of victimization

Anger most common reaction among victims

Experiencing a criminal incident can affect victims in many ways, from emotional and financial distress to having their daily activities disrupted. Similar to previous cycles, the 2009 GSS found that consequences of criminal incidents were common among victims of both violent and household crime.

Even though household crime primarily targets property rather than people, victims of these crimes were just as likely as victims of violent crimes to be affected emotionally. Overall, 8 in 10 victims reported that the incident had affected them emotionally. The most common reactions were anger, feeling upset/confused/frustrated, annoyed, fear, and becoming more cautious/aware (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Emotional consequences of self-reported victimization incidents, 2009



Note: Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Many victims of violent crime also reported disruptions to their day. Overall, more than 1 in 4 (28%) victims of violent crime said that they found it difficult or even impossible to carry out their daily activities. In general, when a victim of a violent crime found it difficult or impossible to carry out his or her everyday activities, the average time required for the victim to return to their regular routine was 11 days.

Victims of household crime, particularly motor vehicle thefts, often reported financial consequences. For nearly one-third of victims of household crime, the value of damaged or stolen property exceeded $500. For motor vehicle thefts (excluding incidents of theft of parts and attempted theft), the value of the damaged or stolen property exceeded this amount in 91% of incidents.

Perceptions of personal safety

Canadians generally satisfied with their personal safety

As in 2004, the majority of Canadians (93%) reported feeling satisfied with their personal safety in 2009. More specifically, 48% of Canadians said that they were very satisfied with their personal safety while 45% indicated that they were somewhat satisfied (Table 11).

When asked about specific situations, Canadians indicated that they felt as safe as they had in 2004. For example, 90% of Canadians reported that they felt safe when walking alone in their neighborhood at night. Further, in 2009, 58% of Canadians who used public transportation reported that they were not at all worried when waiting for or using these services after dark. A similar pattern was found for perceptions of personal safety when home alone in the evening, with over 8 in 10 Canadians stating that they had no concern about their safety while alone in their homes (Table 11).

In addition to questions about feelings of personal safety, the GSS also asked Canadians about their perception of crime in their communities. Almost two-thirds of respondents (62%) said they believed that crime rates in their community had not changed over the past five years. Over 6 in 10 Canadians believed that crime was lower in their neighborhood than in other neighborhoods in Canada.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Self-reported victimization, 1999, 2004 and 2009

Year	Total violent victimization[1]		Total household victimization[2]		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate[3]	number (thousands)	rate[4]	number (thousands)	rate[3]
1999	2,691	111	2,656	218*	1,831	75*
2004	2,751	106	3,206	248	2,408	93*
2009†	3,267	118	3,184	237	2,981	108

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Total violent victimization includes: sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.
2. Total household victimization includes: break and enter, motor vehicle theft/parts, theft of household property and vandalism.
3. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
4. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Table 2
Self-reported victimization, by type of offence and province, 2009

Province	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total violent victimization	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	F	F	F	F	32[E]	75[E]	40[E]	94[E]
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	F	F	11[E]	92[E]
Nova Scotia	F	F	F	F	47[E]	60[E]	76	96
New Brunswick	F	F	F	F	63	99	76	120
Quebec	107[E]	17[E]	80[E]	12[E]	450	69	637	98
Ontario	265[E]	25[E]	108[E]	10[E]	853	80	1,226	114
Manitoba	F	F	F	F	112	116	169	175
Saskatchewan	F	F	F	F	95[E]	116[E]	130	159
Alberta	97[E]	33[E]	F	F	249	86	393	135
British Columbia	135[E]	36[E]	F	F	311	82	508	135
Total	**677**	**24**	**368**	**13**	**2,222**	**80**	**3,267**	**118**

Province	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/parts theft		Theft of household property	
	number (thousands)	rate[2]	number (thousands)	rate[2]	number (thousands)	rate[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	6[E]	28[E]	F	F	11[E]	54[E]
Prince Edward Island	F	F	F	F	5[E]	89[E]
Nova Scotia	14[E]	36[E]	F	F	29	75
New Brunswick	12[E]	37[E]	F	F	18[E]	56[E]
Quebec	170	52	120	36	218	66
Ontario	172	35	133	27	386	78
Manitoba	34[E]	72[E]	29	61	53	112
Saskatchewan	23[E]	56[E]	23[E]	54[E]	47	112
Alberta	84	59	54[E]	38[E]	144	102
British Columbia	113	60	74	39	198	105
Total	**630**	**47**	**453**	**34**	**1,109**	**83**

Province	Vandalism		Total household victimization		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate[2]	number (thousands)	rate[2]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	8[E]	41[E]	27	134	24[E]	56[E]
Prince Edward Island	F	F	12[E]	219[E]	10[E]	85[E]
Nova Scotia	26	68	79	202	55	69
New Brunswick	16	51	52	165	45	71
Quebec	237	72	745	226	613	94
Ontario	307	62	998	202	1,220	114
Manitoba	62	132	178	376	105	108
Saskatchewan	44	106	137	328	101	123
Alberta	151	107	433	306	336	116
British Columbia	137	73	522	277	473	125
Total	**992**	**74**	**3,184**	**237**	**2,981**	**108**

1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
2. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.
Note: Caution should be used in making comparisons between provinces as not all differences between provincial estimates are statistically significant. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 3
Self-reported victimization, by census metropolitan area, 2009

Census metropolitan area[1,2]	Total violent victimization[3]		Total household victimization[4]		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate[5]	number (thousands)	rate[6]	number (thousands)	rate[5]
St. John's	19[E]	117[E]	13	182	16[E]	100[E]
Halifax	35[E]	107[E]	38	236	39[E]	120[E]
Saint John	F	F	11	227	F	F
Moncton	F	F	13[E]	206[E]	F	F
Québec	F	F	61	186	F	F
Montréal	368	118	408	258	352	113
Ottawa-Gatineau	139[E]	143[E]	90	187	143	147
Toronto	418	90	377	188	571	124
St. Catharines-Niagara	F	F	52[E]	319[E]	F	F
Kitchener	F	F	40[E]	234[E]	F	F
Hamilton	F	F	45[E]	160[E]	F	F
London	F	F	41[E]	220[E]	F	F
Winnipeg	73[E]	121[E]	120	413	59[E]	98[E]
Regina	43[E]	273[E]	36[E]	453[E]	F	F
Saskatoon	F	F	34	348	F	F
Calgary	130[E]	135[E]	142	311	111[E]	116[E]
Edmonton	131[E]	144[E]	143	328	128[E]	140[E]
Vancouver	281[E]	141[E]	272	286	272	137[E]
Victoria	48[E]	146[E]	36[E]	208	38[E]	116[E]

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.
2. The following CMAs are excluded from this table due to the unreliability of data: Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières, Kingston, Peterborough, Oshawa, Brantford, Guelph, Windsor, Barrie, Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Kelowna, Abbotsford-Mission.
3. Total violent victimization includes: sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.
4. Total household victimization includes: break and enter, motor vehicle theft/parts, theft of household property and vandalism.
5. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
6. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000 households.

Note: Caution should be used in making comparisons between CMAs, as not all differences between CMA estimates are statistically significant.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009

Table 4
Self-reported violent victimization and theft of personal property by selected demographic characteristics, 2009

Characteristics	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total–violent incidents		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Sex										
Female†	472	34	146	10	945	67	1,563	112	1,609	115
Male	204[E]	15[E]*	222	16	1,277	94*	1,704	125	1,372	101
Age										
15 to 24†	307	69	209[E]	47[E]	757	169	1,273	284	898	200
25 to 34	161[E]	35[E]*	56[E]	12[E]*	545	118*	761	165*	642	139*
35 to 44	92[E]	19[E]*	43[E]	9[E]*	413	86*	548	114*	578	121*
45 to 54	96[E]	18[E]*	F	F	316	59*	444	84*	487	92*
55 to 64	F	F	F	F	118	29*	156	39*	257	63*
65 and over	F	F	F	F	73[E]	17[E]*	84[E]	19[E]*	118	27*
Marital status										
Married†	131[E]	9[E]	66[E]	5[E]	677	48	874	62	1,112	79
Common-law	82[E]	26[E]*	F	F	335	105*	440	137*	442	138*
Single	385	54*	237	34*	1,011	143*	1,633	231*	1,207	171*
Widowed	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	26[E]	19[E]*
Separated/divorced	74[E]	40[E]*	36[E]	19[E]*	184[E]	99[E]*	293	158*	192	103*
Household income										
Less than $20,000†	41	29[E]	F	F	148	103	212	147	112	78
20 to $39,999	85[E]	26[E]	F	F	246	75	364	112	302	93
40 to $59,999	83[E]	22[E]	F	F	294	76	406	105	343	89
60 to $99,999	138[E]	22[E]	72[E]	12[E]	536	86	746	120	633	102
$100,000 or more	220[E]	31[E]	113[E]	16[E]	598	83	932	129	1,037	143*
Aboriginal identity										
Aboriginal people†	63[E]	71[E]	F	F	123	141[E]	204	232	127	145
Non-Aboriginal people	612	23*	347	13	2,081	78*	3,039	114*	2,838	107
Immigrant status										
Immigrant†	F	F	F	F	244	43	355	62	477	84
Non-immigrant	598	27	334	15	1,977	90*	2,909	133*	2,502	114*
Visible minority										
Visible minority†	F	F	F	F	189[E]	51[E]	279[E]	76[E]	376	102
Non-visible minority	604	25	332	14	2,009	85*	2,945	124*	2,578	109
Sexual orientation[2]										
Heterosexual†	509	20	262	10	1,779	71	2,550	102	2,483	99
Homosexual	F	F	F	F	F	F	108[E]	405[E]*	F	F
Activity limitations										
Limited in activities†	229	27	173[E]	20[E]	832	96	1,234	143	916	106
No limitation	445	24	194	10*	1,384	73*	2,023	107*	2,060	109

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
2. Data for those who self-identified as Bisexual have been suppressed due to the unreliability of the estimates.
Note: Excludes responses of "Don't know and Not stated". Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 5
Self-reported violent victimization and theft of personal property by selected social characteristics, 2009

Characteristics	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault		Total – violent incidents		Theft of personal property	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Main activity										
Employed†	383	24	185	12	1,422	89	1,990	125	1,777	111
Looking for paid work	F	F	F	F	65[E]	112[E]	99[E]	170[E]	F	F
Student	196[E]	59[E]*	137[E]	41[E]*	460	138*	794	238*	673	202*
Household work[2]	F	F	F	F	116	52*	169	76*	212	96
Retired	F	F	F	F	83[E]	18[E]*	106[E]	22[E]*	160	34*
Other[3]	F	F	F	F	76	87[E]	108	125[E]	93[E]	108[E]
Number of evening activities (per month)										
Less than 10†	F	F	F	F	256	38	328	48	372	55
10 to 19	120[E]	19[E]*	54[E]	9[E]*	333	52*	507	80*	554	87*
20 to 29	158[E]	29[E]*	87[E]	16[E]*	435	79*	680	124*	691	126*
30 or more	345	40*	198[E]	23[E]*	1,179	138*	1,722	202*	1,308	153*
5 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting (past month)										
None†	392	19	162	8	1,269	63	1,824	90	1,801	89
1 to 4	210	34*	149[E]	24[E]*	720	117*	1,079	176*	962	157*
More than 4	F	F	F	F	215	177*	343[E]	283*	205	169*
Use of drugs										
Never use drugs†	472	20	181	8	1,474	61	2,127	89	2,344	98
None during past month	49[E]	28[E]	F	F	180	103*	245	140*	242	138*
At least once during the past month (but not every day)	135[E]	96[E]*	116[E]	83[E]*	407	290*	658	469*	284	202*
Everyday	F	F	F	F	139[E]	491[E]*	200[E]	709[E]*	101	358[E]*

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
2. Includes taking care of children and maternity/paternity leave.
3. Includes long-term illness and volunteering.
Note: Excludes responses of "Don't know and Not stated". Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 6
Self-reported violent victimization, by type of offence, 1999, 2004 and 2009

Year	Sexual assault		Robbery		Physical assault	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
1999	502	21	228	9*	1,961	81
2004	546	21	274	11	1,931	75
2009†	677	24	368	13	2,222	80

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 population age 15 years and older.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004, 2009.

Table 7
Self-reported violent victimization, by type of offence and offender characteristics, 2009

Offender characteristics	Sexual assault[1]		Robbery		Physical assault[1]		Total violent victimization[1]	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Number of offenders								
One	586	92	122	61	642	71	1,350	78
Two	F	F	F	F	100[E]	11[E]	162	9
Three or more	F	F	F	F	161	18	227	13
Sex								
Male	510	87	113	94	559	88	1,182	88
Female	75[E]	13[E]	F	F	80	12[E]	162	12
Age group (in years)[2]								
12 to 17	F	F	F	F	89[E]	15[E]	169	13
18 to 24	144	26[E]	F	F	157	26	327	26
25 to 34	131	24[E]	F	F	143	23	303	24
35 to 44	99	18[E]	F	F	138	23	267	21
45 years or older	117	21	F	F	82	14[E]	216	17
Relationship of offender to the victim								
Family	F	F	F	F	104[E]	12[E]	169	10[E]
Friend, acquaintance, neighbour	324	51	58[E]	29[E]	278	31	660	38
Stranger	233	37	110[E]	55	459	51	802	46
Other	F	F	F	F	57	6	98	6[E]
Location of the incident								
Private residence of the victim	65	11[E]	123	34	350	21	538	20
Other private residence	121	20[E]	F	F	194	12	334	13
Commercial establishment	337	54	F	F	637	39	1,037	39
Street or other public place	82	13[E]	150[E]	41	439	27	671	25
Presence of a weapon								
Yes	F	F	152	46	521	33	693	27
No	613	97	181	54	1,060	67	1,855	73
Did the incident cause injuries								
Yes	F	F	75	20	358	22	474	18
No	621	94	293	80	1,303	78	2,217	82

1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
2. Excludes incidents where the respondent said the offender was younger than 12 years old.
Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Excludes responses of "Don't know and Not stated". Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 8
Self-reported household victimization, by selected social, demographic and economic characteristics, 2009

Characteristics	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/parts theft		Theft of household property		Vandalism		All household incidents	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Living in the dwelling										
Less than 6 months[†]	53[E]	86[E]	30[E]	49[E]	64	104	57[E]	93[E]	202	332
6 months to less than 1 year	54[E]	75[E]	39[E]	55[E]	78	108	54	75	225	312
1 year to less than 3 years	105	46[*]	77	34	189	83	159	70	530	233[*]
3 years to less than 5 years	92	55	56	33	167	99	131	78	446	264
5 years to less than 10 years	111	43[*]	103	40	258	100	226	88	698	270
10 or more years	204	38[*]	148	27	349	64[*]	363	67	1,063	195[*]
Place of residence										
Census metropolitan area[†]	431	48	311	34	759	84	706	78	2,207	244
Non-census metropolitan area	199	45	142	32	350	80	287	65[*]	978	223
Dwelling type										
Single detached[†]	386	46	302	36	724	86	669	79	2,081	246
Semi-detached, row house, duplex	77	40	73	38	200	105	151	79	501	262
Apartment (less than 5 storeys)	99	59	48	28	115	68[*]	114	67	377	222
Apartment (5 storeys or more)	47[E]	49[E]	F	F	35[E]	36[E*]	39[E]	41[E*]	140	146[*]
Household income										
Less than $20,000[†]	69	65	24[E]	23[E]	54	51	62	59	210	197
$20,000 to $39,999	79	40[*]	48	25	142	72	100	51	370	187
$40,000 to $59,999	88	44	80	40[*]	163	82[*]	136	68	468	234
$60,000 to $99,999	161	55	105	36[*]	290	100[*]	241	83[*]	798	275[*]
$100,000 or more	127	43[*]	117	40[*]	288	99[*]	298	102[*]	830	284[*]

Table 8 (continued)

Characteristics	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/parts theft		Theft of household property		Vandalism		All household incidents	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
Household size										
1 person†	132	41	62	20	186	58	166	52	547	172
2 people	221	46	151	32*	336	71	292	61	999	210*
3 people or more	278	51	239	44*	587	107*	534	98*	1,638	300*
Family type										
Single[2] †	174	46	86	23	231	62	212	57	704	188
Couple	152	39	117	30	254	65	229	58	751	192
Intact[3]	177	44	158	40*	390	98*	333	84*	1,058	265*
Lone-parent	90	73*	59	48*	154	126*	151	123*	455	371*
Blended family[4]	37[E]	71[E]	32[E]	61[E]*	80	153*	66	127*	215	411*
Dwelling ownership										
Owned †	420	42	352	35	851	85	756	76	2,379	238
Rented	199	60*	100	30	254	76	235	71	787	237

† reference group
* significant difference from reference group ($p < 0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.
2. Single refers a household where members are not spouses and there are no children. It can include persons who are not related (for example roommates). For this reason, the numbers for persons whose family type is 'single person' do not match the numbers for persons whose household size is "one person".
3. Intact family refers to a family in which all children in the household are the biological and/or adopted offspring of both members of the couple.
4. A blended family contains children of both spouses from one or more previous unions or one or more children from the current union and one or more children from previous unions.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 9
Self-reported household victimization, by type of offence, 1999, 2004 and 2009

Year	Break and enter		Motor vehicle/ parts theft		Theft of household property		Vandalism	
	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]	number (thousands)	rate[1]
1999	587	48	501	41*	760	62*	808	66*
2004	505	39*	571	44*	1,136	88	993	77
2009†	630	47	453	34	1,109	83	992	74

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Rates are calculated per 1,000 households.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004, 2009.

Table 10
Self-reported victimizations reported to police, 1999, 2004 and 2009

Type of offence	1999		2004		2009†	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Total victimization[1]	**2,417**	**37***	**2,613**	**34***	**2,770**	**31**
Violent victimization[1]						
Sexual assault	F	F	42[E]	8[E]	F	F
Robbery	105	46	127	46	158	43
Physical assault	460	37	519	39	572	34
Total	**603**	**31**	**687**	**33**	**777**	**29**
Household victimization						
Break and enter	365	62*	275	54	337	54
Motor vehicle/parts theft	303	60*	281	49	227	50
Household property theft	240	32*	330	29*	250	23
Vandalism	273	34	303	31*	346	35
Total	**1,181**	**44***	**1,188**	**37**	**1,160**	**36**
Theft of personal property	633	35*	738	31	833	28

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.
Note: Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date.
Don't know and not stated are included in the total but not shown.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Table 11
Self-reported feelings of safety from crime, 2004 and 2009

	2004		2009	
	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Personal safety[1]				
Very satisfied	11,464	44	13,162	48
Somewhat satisfied	12,888	50	12,477	45
Somewhat dissatisfied	1,028	4	1,370	5
Very dissatisfied	280	1	358	1
Walking alone after dark[2]				
Safe	17,694	90	19,351	90
Unsafe	2,024	10	2,057	10
Home alone in the evening or night[3]				
Not at all worried	20,596	80	22,823	83
Somewhat worried	4,665	18	4,265	16
Very worried	431	2	337	1
Using public transportation alone after dark[2]				
Not at all worried	3,697	57	3,658	58
Somewhat worried	2,434	38	2,356	38
Very worried	300	5	209	3

1. Reponses of "no opinion" were excluded from analysis.
2. Based on responses of people who engage in these activities.
3. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Excludes data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut which will be published at a later date. Don't know and not stated are included in the total but not shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.

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Methodology

In 2009, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fifth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of Canadians' personal experiences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, measure the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

The target population included all persons 15 years and older in the 10 Canadian provinces, excluding full-time residents of institutions. The survey was also conducted in the three Canadian territories using a different sampling design and its results will be available in a separate report to be released in 2011. Households were selected by a telephone sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Households without telephones or with only cellular phone service were excluded. These two groups combined represented approximately 9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Service Survey, (RTSS), December 2008). For the 2004 GSS (Cycle 18), this proportion was 4%. The coverage, therefore, for 2009 (Cycle 23) and 2004 (Cycle 18), was 91% and 96%, respectively.

Once a household was contacted an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. The sample in 2009 was approximately 19,500 households, a slightly smaller sample than in 2004 (24,000).

Data collection

Data collection took place from February to November 2009 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A standard questionnaire was administered by phone using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). A typical interview lasted 45 minutes.

Response rates

Of the 31,510 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 23 sample, 19,422 usable responses were obtained. This represents a response rate of 61.6%, a decrease from 2004 (74.5%). Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over. Each person who responded to the 2009 GSS represented roughly 1,400 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This Juristat uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is referenced with the estimate. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analysis were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Using the 2009 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.95 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

Notes

1. All data have been tested for statistical significance. Unless otherwise noted, differences between estimates are statistically significant at $p<0.05$. See the Methodology section for a discussion of sampling error and statistical significance.

2. The analysis of violent victimization data includes incidents of spousal sexual or physical assault whereas the analysis of incident and offender characteristics excludes these types of incidents.

3. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

4. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a central core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the central core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.

5. Social, demographic and economic characteristics for both violent and household victimization incidents were examined individually. The results do not account for possible interactions between these characteristics.

6. The question which was used to identify the Aboriginal population in the 2009 victimization survey is different than that used in 2004 and 1999. The 2009 results for the Aboriginal population should not, therefore, be directly compared with those from previous victimization surveys.

   Households in the ten provinces were selected for the GSS survey by a sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD) and respondents were interviewed by telephone. It should be noted that the proportion of households with a landline telephone may be relatively low on some Indian reserves and settlements.

7. In 2009, the data pertaining to offenders, injuries or the presence of weapons are based on 69% of violent incidents.

8. Differences in rates between 1999, 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

9. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

10. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

11. Excludes medication prescribed by a doctor and over the counter medication.

12. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

13. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.

14. Differences in rates between 2004 and 2009 were not statistically significant.